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INFO RUEHZA/WHA CENTRAL AMERICAN COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHWN/AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN PRIORITY 1955
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY 0646
RUEHGE/AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN PRIORITY 0888
RUEHKG/AMEMBASSY KINGSTON PRIORITY 2631
RUEHPO/AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO PRIORITY 1028
RUEHPU/AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE PRIORITY 4343
RUEHSP/AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN PRIORITY 1708
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RUEHC/DEPT OF LABOR WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC PRIORITY
RUCPDO/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY 1554
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 002958

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/13/2016

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SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FERNANDEZ: NAM
SUMMIT, VENEZUELA-GUATEMALA

REF: STATE 145242

Classified By: Ambassador Hans H. Hertell, Reasons 1.4(b), (d)

11. (SBU) In a September 9 meeting with President Fernandez, the Ambassador delivered Reftel demarche on the NAM Summit, emphasizing the importance the United States places on the UN Security Council membership, terrorism, democracy, and the Middle East.

12. (C) Regarding the Security Council race between Venezuela and Guatemala, Fernandez reaffirmed the Dominican Republic's commitment to vote for Guatemala. The President added that his government does not plan to make the commitment public because of the need to preserve good relations with Caracas. For example, Venezuela's assistance via the PetroCaribe program is valued by the Dominicans because of the severe energy problems here. Noting that the Dominican Republic is running for a seat on the Security Council next year (2008-09), Fernandez said that, if this year's Venezuela-Guatemala race (2007-08) reaches an impasse, the Dominicans would be interested in stepping in as a compromise candidate. (Note: Post understands that the Department is preparing a demarche request which will explain the specific timing of when a possible Dominican entry into this year's race would be opposed/supported by the U.S.)

13. (C) Regarding terrorism, Fernandez strongly supported the U.S. position, saying that the issue is clear, and that the Dominican Government denounces violence irregardless of the type.

14. (C) Comment: In a separate meeting with the Ambassador, Foreign Minister Morales dismissed U.S. concerns about Venezuela-Guatemala as unnecessary, saying "I'm handling this myself" and waving a hand in a motion that signaled "there is

nothing to worry about" (Septel). Morales' dramatic flourish aside, we note that PetroCaribe is highly valued by the Dominican Republic because of the troubled energy sector here, where blackouts are frequent and the Government spends heavily on power. Nevertheless, we are strongly encouraged by Fernandez's reaffirmation of support for Guatemala, particularly since it comes straight from the top.

15. (U) This report and extensive other material can be consulted on our SIPRNET site,
<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/wha/santodomingo/> .
HERTELL